

Laws of the Autumn Monarch of the Freehold of Stalwart Guard

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1. Preamble
 - 1.1. Unless otherwise stated, all previous laws and positions are now dissolved.
 - 1.2. All of these laws are created by the Autumn Monarch and are in effect for the season of Autumn alone unless declared otherwise by another ruling Monarch.
 - 1.3. The Autumn Monarch may alter or add to these laws at any time, save at such time as he stands accused of the breach of said laws.
 - 1.3.1. The best effort will be made to publicise any change in the laws.
 - 1.3.2. Altered laws may not be applied retroactively.
 - 1.4. The Autumn Monarch is subject to these laws.
 - 1.5. All Free Lost sworn to stalwart Guard are subject to and protected by these laws.
 - 1.6. All Free Lost who visit the Freehold of Stalwart Guard are protected by and will be held to the standard of these laws.
 - 1.7. It is held as truth that the life of a Free Lost is sacrosanct.
 - 1.8. It is held as truth that the liberty of a Free Lost is sacrosanct.
 - 1.9. The True Fae are held to be beyond repentance and understanding and Stalwart Guard rejects all that they stand for. They have no protection under the law.
 - 1.9.1. Only the Monarch may choose to offer or grant any amnesty, aid or safe passage to the True Fae.
 - 1.9.2. Any other who willingly and knowingly makes such an offer or grant to one of the True Fae shall be deemed an Unrepentant Loyalist.
 - 1.10. It is declared that Unrepentant Loyalists and Privateers, having shown flagrant disregard for the lives and liberty of others, forfeit the automatic protections and respects accorded the Free Lost.
 - 1.10.1. Unrepentant Loyalist shall be recognised to refer to any who willingly and knowingly offers aid to the True Fae or their agents, and any who serves the True Fae unwillingly, but declines a free and fair chance to be liberated from their servitude.
 - 1.10.1.1. Any Unrepentant Loyalist taken within the Bounds of Stalwart Guard shall be dealt with as the Monarch deems appropriate.

- 1.10.1.2. Only the Monarch may choose to offer or grant any amnesty, aid or safe passage to a known Unrepentant Loyalist.
- 1.10.1.3. Any other who willingly and knowingly makes such an offer or grant to an Unrepentant Loyalist shall likewise be deemed an Unrepentant Loyalist.
- 1.10.2. Privateer shall be recognised to refer to any who willingly and knowingly trades in the lives and liberty of other sentient beings, either in direct dealing with the True Fae or in the knowledge that their dealings shall indirectly render up the lives or liberty of others to the True Fae.
 - 1.10.2.1. Any Privateer taken within the Bounds of Stalwart Guard shall be dealt with as the Monarch deems appropriate.
 - 1.10.2.2. Only the Monarch may choose to offer or grant any amnesty, aid or safe passage to a known Privateer.
- 1.11. Fetches are recognised as the tools of the True Fae, but not willing ones. They are despised as instruments of the True Fae, but their existence is acknowledged to interact with the mortal world in a unique and irreplaceable fashion which affects the Free Lost.
 - 1.11.1. No Fetch of any Free Lost of Stalwart Guard, nor any Fetch within the bounds of the Freehold, may be knowingly dealt with in any way without the express permission of the Free Lost whom the Fetch imitates.
 - 1.11.2. Any consequences of dealing with the Fetch fall on the heads of those who deal with them.

2. Crime and Punishment

2.1. Accusation, defence and trial

- 2.1.1. If a crime has been committed then the Monarch shall judge upon the guilt or innocence of any and all accused of committing said crime.
- 2.1.2. Those accused must be informed of all crimes of which they are accused and shall have a length of time, stipulated by the monarch, to prepare their defence and shall then appear to stand trial at a time and place instructed by the Monarch.
 - 2.1.2.1. An accused who is considered a flight risk may be required to swear an oath to attend trial as instructed.
 - 2.1.2.2. All accusations will be brought against the accused in open court and their defence shall be presented in like fashion.
 - 2.1.2.2.1. The accused, if in fear of their life, may require that the trial be held in closed session of the Monarchs of the Four Seasons, with the accuser and defence alone present besides.
 - 2.1.2.3. No additional accusations may be brought at the time of trial, but must be raised anew and the accused given further leave to prepare their defence.

- 2.1.3. If the accused does not appear for trial as instructed, and can show no just cause for their absence, they will be deemed to have entered a plea of guilty with no mitigation.
- 2.1.4. If the accuser does not appear for trial as instructed, and can show no just cause for their absence, they will be deemed to have withdrawn their accusation without stain on the accused.
- 2.1.5. The accused or the accuser may choose to present their evidence in person, or elect another to represent them. This other has the right to refuse without offering a reason, and refusal should not be deemed prejudicial to the case.
 - 2.1.5.1. Both the accused and the accuser must still appear for the trial.
- 2.1.6. Evidence may be offered under a Truthspeaker's Oath.
 - 2.1.6.1. Either the accused or the accuser may ask that an opposing witness give testimony under the Truthspeaker's Oath, but this may only be enforced at the will of the Monarch.
- 2.1.7. If the accused offers a plea of guilty or offers a plea of not guilty and is found guilty, they may offer mitigation before sentencing.
- 2.1.8. If the accused is not tried before the end of Autumn, they are expected to present themselves to the Autumn Monarch for judgement.
- 2.2. Punishment
 - 2.2.1. The Freehold of Stalwart Guard, as personified in its Monarch, is not a competent authority to order the death of any Free Lost.
 - 2.2.2. The Freehold of Stalwart Guard, as personified in its Monarch, is not a competent authority to order the incarceration of any Free Lost.
 - 2.2.3. The Freehold of Stalwart Guard, as personified in its Monarch, is competent to order the following punishments:
 - 2.2.3.1. Oathbond;
 - 2.2.3.2. Restitution;
 - 2.2.3.3. Banishment;
 - 2.2.3.4. Tithe;
 - 2.2.3.5. Forbiddance.
 - 2.2.4. Further to these, the following punishments may be authorised as alternatives to the above at the request or consent of the convicted:
 - 2.2.4.1. the convicted may request to be placed under house arrest, taking the burden of incarceration on themselves;
 - 2.2.5. Finally, the following punishment may be authorised if banishment is deemed to merely transfer a problem to another Freehold and all other punishments are refused by the accused:
 - 2.2.5.1. Maiming, to a degree not exceeding the maximum sanction of a bond of good behaviour for the crime committed.
 - 2.2.6. The degree of punishment shall be at the discretion of the Monarch, to the maximum defined in law.

2.3. Offences

2.3.1. The following list of offences should not be deemed exhaustive.

2.3.2. The sentence listed for each offence is the maximum sentence allowable.

2.3.2.1. To knowingly and willingly offer aid, assistance or safe passage to one of the True Fae is a crime, punishable by banishment. One convicted of this offence may also no longer be deemed of the Free Lost, but shall be considered an Unrepentant Loyalist.

2.3.2.2. To commit acts so heinous as to be likened to the True Fae – such as serial or mass murder, torture or extreme depravity – is a crime, punishable by banishment. One convicted of this offence shall no longer be considered among the Free Lost. They shall forfeit all right to respect or protection under the law and be dealt with as the Monarch deems fit.

2.3.2.3. The murder of a Free Lost is a crime. One convicted of this may be ordered to make restitution by rendering up all of their worldly and otherworldly possessions to the victim's motley, spouse or blood kin. Such possessions as can not easily be so rendered up should be liquidated and the proceeds rendered in restitution. In addition, those convicted of such a crime may be required to swear an oath, on sanction of death, to protect the deceased's motley, spouse or blood kin in perpetuity.

2.3.2.3.1. Where the victim of such a crime leaves no clear recipient of restitution, the Monarch shall rule on a suitable proxy.

2.3.2.4. The murder of a human being is a crime. One convicted of this may be ordered to make restitution by anonymously rendering up all of their worldly possessions to the victim's spouse or blood kin. Such possessions as can not easily be so rendered up should be liquidated and the proceeds rendered in restitution. In addition, those convicted of such a crime may be required to swear an oath, on sanction of death, to protect the deceased's spouse or blood kin in perpetuity.

2.3.2.4.1. Where the victim of such a crime leaves no clear recipient of restitution, the Monarch shall rule on a suitable proxy.

2.3.2.5. Causing the needless death of a Free Lost or a human by negligence or recklessness is a crime. One convicted of this may be ordered to swear an oath, on sanction of death, to protect the deceased's motley, spouse or blood kin for a year and a day.

2.3.2.5.1. Where the victim of such a crime leaves no clear recipient of restitution, the Monarch shall rule on a suitable proxy.

- 2.3.2.6. The ravaging of a human's dreams to the detriment of their health and wellbeing is a crime when committed in knowledge of one's actions and their consequences. One convicted of this may be ordered to swear their protection of that mortal's dreams for a period of up to 10 years and 10 days, and may also have their tithe of Glamour to their liege doubled for the same period.
- 2.3.2.7. Restricting the liberty of Free Lost or a human without the authority of the Monarch or the victim's Liege is a crime. Those convicted of such an offence shall forswear such action for a period of not less than a year and a day and not more than 10 years and 10 days.
 - 2.3.2.7.1. Should the restriction have been achieved by force, the convicted's hand shall stand surety for their word.
 - 2.3.2.7.2. Should the restriction have been achieved by means other than physical force, the convicted's tongue shall stand surety for their word.
 - 2.3.2.7.3. Should such a surety not exist, the Monarch may declare a suitable substitute.
- 2.3.2.8. Revealing one's fae nature to an unensorcelled mortal is a crime. One convicted of this offence may have their tithe of Glamour to their liege doubled for a year and a day.
- 2.3.2.9. Attempting to intrude on or overhear any closed trial or arbitration is a crime. One committed of this offence shall be oathbound to silence for a period of a year and a day, their tongue to stand as surety.
- 2.3.2.10. Revealling the matter of a closed session to those without is a crime. One committed of this offence shall be oathbound to silence for a period of a year and a day, their tongue to stand as surety, and will no more be permitted to attend closed session in any capacity. Should they stand accused of another crime, they may not request trial in closed session.
- 2.3.3. While within the bounds of the Freehold of Stalwart Guard, all Free Lost are expected to conduct themselves within the standards of British Law.
- 2.3.4. While it is not the place of the Monarch to enforce British Law unless breach thereof also impacts upon a member of the Free Lost, it is recognised that the Freehold may stand in the stead of the British Court where necessary to protect the anonymity of the fae and the liberty of a member of the Freehold, who shall be punished instead in accordance with these laws.

3. Arbitration

- 3.1. A judgement or ruling by the Monarch may be appealed.
- 3.2. In this case, the remainder of the Autumn Court of Stalwart Guard shall convene as arbiters to review the judgement.
 - 3.2.1. The Court is not quorate unless fully half of their number are present.

- 3.2.2. The Arbiters meet in closed session and only their verdict can be declared; not aspect of their discussion shall be made public.
- 3.2.3. Neither the Monarch, nor any member of the Autumn Court bearing an oath to accuser or accused may participate in the arbitration.
- 3.3. The decision of the arbiters must be made with a three-quarter majority.
- 3.4. If no decision is reached, the arbitration may deliver no verdict.
- 3.5. The arbiters may overturn the verdict or the sentence of a trial and instruct the Monarch to reconsider under advisement; they may not rule on the case itself.
- 3.6. The Monarch's revised judgement is final.

4. Duels

- 4.1. Free Lost may choose to engage one another in duels, but no Free Lost is ever bound to accept a duel when challenged.
- 4.2. In a duel, both parties are deemed to consent to harm up to and including death resulting from recklessness, negligence or misadventure.
 - 4.2.1. The deliberate murder or maiming of another Free Lost under cover of a duel remains a crime.
- 4.3. To be considered a duel, the following conditions must apply to a fight:
 - 4.3.1. It must be conducted by two fighters;
 - 4.3.2. Each should be accompanied by a second;
 - 4.3.3. The terms and rules of engagement should be agreed between all parties;
 - 4.3.4. A third party should act as referee and see fair play;
 - 4.3.5. The combat should be conducted away from unensorcelled eyes.
- 4.4. If a duel is fought to resolve a dispute, the matter shall be considered settled at the duel's conclusion.
- 4.5. If a challenge is offered by way of an accusation of a crime, the Monarch may at his discretion rule that the accused, if defeated or seriously injured in victory, has suffered sufficient punishment for their offences.
- 4.6. The Monarch shall not interfere in any duel, save if not doing so would harm the security of Stalwart Guard.
- 4.7. The Monarch may choose to declare that for a time no duels shall be fought; during this time it shall be a crime to engage in a duel.
- 4.8. Breaking the agreed terms of a duel shall be considered a crime. One convicted of this offence shall be punished at the Monarch's discretion.

5. Court Positions

- 5.1. It is understood that as any power wielded in a courtly position comes directly from the Monarch, it is to be seen as the power of the Monarch and respected as such.

- 5.2. The Monarch may appoint officers and other courtly positions as he sees fit, their roles, powers and responsibilities to be defined by the Monarch.
- 5.3. The Monarch may alter or revoke said roles, powers and responsibilities at any time.
- 5.4. No courtly position may be empowered to break these laws.

6. Additional

- 6.1. The Freehold of Stalwart Guard upholds the traditions of hospitality, both in receiving guests and in visiting others.
- 6.2. The Tolltaker Knights are recognised within the Freehold.
 - 6.2.1. Any Tolltaker seeking to claim toll on a member of Stalwart Guard without first obtaining the permission of the Monarch forfeits the protections of hospitality and any harm befalling them as a result of such action is deemed to fall on their own head.
 - 6.2.2. Any Tolltaker seeking to claim toll on a guest of Stalwart Guard without first obtaining the permission of the Monarch forfeits the protections of hospitality and any harm befalling them as a result of such action is deemed to fall on their own head.
- 6.3. It is held that members of Stalwart Guard are responsible for the defence of the Freehold and, as such, it is their duty to practice a martial discipline for no less than two hours a week.
 - 6.3.1. Training in contracts to enhance combat effectiveness does not meet this requirement.
 - 6.3.2. A Free Lost with a specialist skill set such as Oneiromachy may, at the discretion of the Monarch, practice this instead of a physical combat discipline.
 - 6.3.3. It is the responsibility of the Monarch to provide the opportunity for such training.
 - 6.3.4. Those incapable due to age, chronic illness, injury or mental illness are exempt from this requirement.